

FISCAL NOTE

HB 37 – SB 174

February 23, 2007

SUMMARY OF BILL: Increases juror compensation, food, lodging, and mileage reimbursement rates.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Govt. Expenditures – Exceeds \$1,500,000*

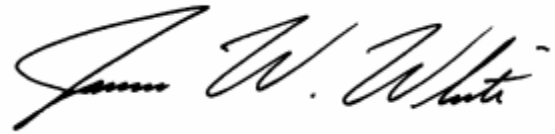
Assumptions:

- According to the Comptroller of the Treasury, the annual juror payment for FY06 was \$3,312,260 with 51 counties (54%) paying jurors the statutory minimum of \$10 per day of service. Forty-four counties paid more than \$10 per day, with most paying \$11 per day. The maximum is \$20 per day.
- Local governments have the option under this bill of paying jurors a combined \$15 per day for jury service and mileage, rather than \$25 pay plus mileage. Currently, the optional combined pay and mileage amount is \$11 per day.
- Most local governments will opt for the least expensive means of compliance and will pay a combined \$15 per day rather than \$25 plus mileage.
- Increasing juror pay state-wide to \$15 per day (excluding those counties currently above \$15) will increase local jury pay costs by an amount exceeding \$1,200,000. A few counties will opt to pay the higher \$25 per day authorized by this bill. It is not possible to project actions that will be taken in each county, but the total increase is expected to exceed \$1,500,000 per year state-wide.
- Section 3 of the bill applies only to sequestered juries. Tenn. Code Ann. § 22-4-102, which is amended by Section 3, is not utilized by local governments since they can receive state reimbursement up to \$1,000 per day for food and lodging for sequestered juries under Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-18-107, which is not amended by this bill. Most local governments will not pay the federal travel-based higher mileage authorized by this bill since there is no state reimbursement for this cost. State reimbursement costs will not increase.

*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

James W. White, Executive Director